

Statement from McCain spokesman Brian Rogers:

“In February 2012, Senator McCain made an unsolicited offer of employment to Ann Sauer, whose experience includes six and a half years on his Senate staff as well as 23 years on Capitol Hill, to fill the recently vacated position of Republican Staff Director of the Senate Armed Services Committee. Ms. Sauer, who had retired from Lockheed Martin more than a year prior, accepted the offer on a stop-gap, temporary one-year basis. Since you apparently reviewed Ms. Sauer’s publicly-available personal financial disclosure form quite closely, you would know that Ms. Sauer is completely divested from all Lockheed Martin-related investments and has no financial interest in the defense industry, in keeping with Senate Ethics Committee guidelines. Ms. Sauer took an early retirement from Lockheed in January 2011 under the Voluntary Early Separation Program (VESP). As a result of her retirement, she received compensation under the VESP program, her normal annual incentive compensation, as well as significant deferred compensation, all of which is reflected on her personal financial disclosure form. In late 2011, she entered into a non-lobbying informational consulting contract with BAE Systems, as well as other consulting agreements, which, pursuant to Senate Ethics Committee guidelines, were terminated prior to her return to Senate employment in 2012. When Ms. Sauer accepted Senator McCain’s offer to lead his Armed Services Committee staff, she did so at her own financial detriment, as she was required to liquidate all remaining Lockheed stock and options in compliance with Senate Ethics Committee guidelines, which, again, was reported on her personal financial disclosure form.

“Senator McCain is very proud of Ms. Sauer’s long, distinguished career working on a range of important defense issues both in Congress and in the private sector.”